B1

1. (amended) An anti-human cytomegalovirus RNAse resistant RNA polynucleotide ligand composition of from 15 to 100 nucleotides in length, and which lacks complementarity to said human cytomegalovirus genetic sequence; binds to said human cytomegalovirus; and inhibits said human cytomegalovirus infection.

B2

6. (amended) The polynucleotide ligand of Claim 5, wherein said RNA comprises 2-amino pyrimidine nucleotides.

B3

8. (amended) An anti-human cytomegalovirus polynucleotide ligand, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the sequence set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 12 to SEQ ID NO:16.

10. (reiterated) The polynucleotide ligand of Claim 8, wherein said ligand comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:12.

12. (reiterated) The polynucleotide ligand composition of Claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (amended) The polynucleotide ligand composition of Claim 12, wherein said polynucleotide ligand composition comprises two or more distinct sequences.

14. (amended) The polynucleotide ligand composition of Claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide ligand composition comprising distinct sequences bind to different epitopes of the virus.

B4

15. (amended) A method of treating [viral] human cytomegalovirus infection, the method comprising:

administering a dose of an anti-human cytomegalovirus RNAse resistant RNA polynucleotide ligand composition at a dose sufficient to decrease said cytomegalovirus infection, wherein said polynucleotide ligand is from 15 to 100 nucleotides in length, and which lacks complementarity to said human cytomegalovirus genetic sequence; binds to said human cytomegalovirus; and inhibits said human cytomegalovirus infection.

16. (reiterated) The method of Claim 15, wherein said antiviral polynucleotide blocks viral entry into a cell.